

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 23-30, 32 have been amended; Claims 9, 11 and 13-22 have been cancelled; and Claims 34-55 have been added. Consequently, Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 23-30, 32 and 34-55 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments add no new matter. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed November 25, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 10, 12, 21, 23 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,557,012 ("Arun"). Applicant has cancelled Claim 21. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 10, 12, 23 and 32 to more clearly recite the elements. In particular, independent Claims 1, 12, and 23 recite "obtaining a table schema employed by a version of the software application," and "synchronizing the database to conform with the table schema employed by a version of the software application."

Claims 1, 12 and 23 recite obtaining a table schema utilized by the version of the software application. Thus, the schema obtained is a format for a table in a database. In contrast, nowhere does Arun disclose obtaining a table schema. While a table is used by the database in Arun, the version control system disclosed in Arun does not obtain the table schema from another source. Instead, the version control subsystem enables a database manager to create a new record within this table and store information from a user in this record, along with a series of version identifiers. The version control subsystem of Arun is not aware of the table schema utilized by the database to store records, only how to interface with a database manager to create new records within the table, and to store version identification data within this newly created record. Consequently, Arun does not obtain a table schema.

Additionally, Claims 1, 12, and 23 recite synchronizing the database to conform with the table schema employed by a version of the software application. Thus, the table schema employed by the database may be changed to conform to a table schema or format which is used by the version of the software application. In contrast, the table schema employed by the database in Arun is static. Version identifiers within a record in the table are used by the

version control subsystem of Arun to create new records within the table, update these records and retrieve information, however, the database table in Arun cannot be conformed to another table schema. (Col. 7, lines 25-29) Consequently, Arun does not synchronize the database to conform with a table schema employed by a version of the software application.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes the Claims are patentably distinguished from Arun. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of independent Claims 1, 12 and 23 and their associated dependent Claims 10 and 32.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-9, 11, 13-20, 22, 24-31 and 33 stand rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Arun") in view of U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0100017 ("Grier"). Applicant has cancelled Claim 9, 11, 13-20, 22, 31 and 33.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant believes that independent Claims 1, 12, and 23 are allowable because Arun does not teach the claim elements of obtaining a table schema or synchronizing a database with a table schema employed by a version of the software application. Because the Arun reference fails to disclose these elements, the combination of references therefore also fails to teach all of the limitations of the claims. Consequently Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentably distinguished from the references under 35 U.S.C. §103. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 2-8, and 24-30.

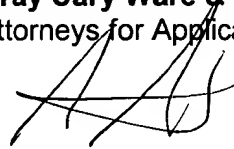
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 23-30, 32 and 34-55. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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